IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

    1. (previously presented) A method, comprising:

    a) generating, at a client, a request for an action to a be performed by a server to a data object, said data object being maintained by said server;

    b) sending an initial request message from said client to said server over a network, wherein said initial request message asks for a first portion of a response to said request, wherein said initial request message further comprises:

        1) a description of said action;

        2) a description of said data object;

        3) a first limit that defines the maximum amount of data that said server is allowed to send to said client in answering said initial request message;

        4) a second limit that defines a maximum datagram size that can be formed by said server in said answering said initial request message;

    c) maintaining an understanding at a client of those portions of said first portion that have been sent by said server and received from said network by said client; and

    d) issuing another request message from said client to said server for another portion of said response that has not been received at said client.

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2.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising sending a reply message from said server to said client, said reply message having at least a portion of said first portion of said response.

3.   (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said reply message further comprises an indication of a size of said response.

4.   (original) The method of claim 3 wherein said indication of a size of said response further comprises an indication of how much of said response remains to be delivered to said client.

5.   (previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said reply message is part of a burst of reply messages, said burst of reply messages carrying said first portion of said response.

6.   (previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said another request message further comprises a starting address and an extent.

7.   (currently amended) The method of claim 6 wherein said starting address corresponds to an address between a starting address for said ~~another~~ response and an ending address for said ~~another~~ response.

8.   (currently amended) The method of claim 6 wherein said extent corresponds to an address between a starting address for said ~~another~~ response and an ending address for said ~~another~~ response.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein said ~~another~~ reply message further comprises an indication of a capacity of said server.

10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said indication of a capacity of said server further comprises a server burst size limit.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said another request message further comprises an indication of a capacity of said client.

12. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein said indication of a capacity of said client further comprises a client burst limit.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said another request message further comprises a description of an object located at said server.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein said another request message further comprises an action to be taken by said server upon said object.

15. (canceled).

16. (previously presented) A method, comprising:

a) generating, at a client, a request for an action to a be performed by a server to a data object, said data object being maintained by said server;

b) sending an initial request message from said client to said server over a network, wherein said initial request message asks for a first portion of a

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response to said request, wherein said initial request message further comprises:

      1) a description of said action;

      2) a description of said data object;

      3) a first limit that defines the maximum amount of data that said server is allowed to send to said client in answering said initial request message;

      4) a second limit that defines a maximum datagram size that can be formed by said server in said answering said initial request message;

c) performing, at said server, at least a part of said action to said data object; and

d) sending a burst of reply messages from said server to said client over said network in order to provide said answering to said initial request message, wherein:

      1) each reply message within said burst of reply messages carries a different piece of said asked for first portion, wherein, each of said different pieces is not larger than said second limit and wherein

      2) the aggregate of said different pieces is an amount of data that is not larger than said first limit.

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17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein said client and said server can identify said response as an addressable block of data.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein said request further comprises:

1) a first address of said block of data that corresponds to a starting address for said response; and

2) a second address of said block of data that corresponds to a terminating address for said response.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein said request defines:

1) a first address of said block of data that corresponds to a starting address for said response; and

2) an extent value that describes how much information beyond said starting address corresponds to the rest of said response.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein said request indicates said response is to be crafted as only a section of a full response, said full response being the complete result of said action being performed on said data object.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising sending a second request message from said client to said server over said network, wherein said second request message asks for a second portion of said response.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said second request message further comprises said first limit and said second limit.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 further comprising sending a second burst of reply messages from said server to said client in order to answer said second request message.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein said first limit is maintained by said client, and a third limit is maintained by said server, said third limit defining the maximum amount of data that said server is allowed to send to said client in answering said initial request message, wherein said third limit is less than said first limit and said aggregate of said different pieces is an amount of data that is not larger than said third limit.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein at least one of said reply messages further comprises the size of said response.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein at least one of said reply messages further comprises an object identifier that said client may use to refer to said data object for subsequent requests that invoke said data object.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein said client assigns a transaction identifier to said request and includes said transaction identifier into said initial request message.

28. (previously presented) A machine readable medium having stored thereon a sequence of instructions which when executed by a processing core cause said processing core to perform a method, said method comprising:

forming an initial request message for sending over a network to a server, wherein said initial request message asks for a first portion of a response to a request from a software program for an action to be performed by a server to a data object, wherein said initial request message further comprises:

1) a description of said action;

2) a description of said data object;

3) a first limit that defines the maximum amount of data that said server is allowed to send to said client in answering said initial request message;

4) a second limit that defines a maximum datagram size that can be formed by said server in said answering said initial request message.

29. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 28 wherein said application software program can identify said response as an addressable block of data.

30. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 29 wherein said request further comprises:

1) a first address of said block of data that corresponds to a starting address for said response; and

2) a second address of said block of data that corresponds to a terminating address for said response.

31. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 29 wherein said request defines:

1) a first address of said block of data that corresponds to a starting address for said response; and

2) an extent value that describes how much information beyond said starting address corresponds to the rest of said response.

32. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 28 wherein said request indicates said response is to be crafted as only a section of a full response, said full response being the complete result of said action being performed on said data object.

33. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 28 wherein said method further comprises forming a second request message for sending to said server over said network, wherein said second request message asks for a second portion of said response.

34. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 33 wherein said second request message further comprises said first limit and said second limit.

35. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 28 wherein said method further comprises receiving a burst of reply messages that were sent over said network from said server in order to provide said answering to said initial request message, wherein:

1) each reply message within said burst of reply messages carries a different piece of said asked for first portion, wherein, each of said different pieces is not larger than said second limit

and wherein

2) the aggregate of said different pieces is an amount of data that is not larger than said first limit.

36. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 35 wherein at least one of said reply messages further comprises the size of said response.

37. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 35 wherein at least one of said reply messages further comprises an object identifier that may be used to refer to said data object for subsequent requests that invoke said data object.

38. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 37 wherein said method further comprises assigning a transaction identifier to said request and including said transaction identifier into said initial request message.

39. (previously presented) A machine readable medium having stored thereon a sequence of instructions which when executed by a processing core cause said processing core to perform a method, said method comprising:

forming a burst of reply messages in order to provide an answer to an initial request message that was sent over a network by a client, wherein said initial request message asked for a first portion of a response to a request from a client software program for an action to be performed to a data object, wherein:

a) said initial request message further comprised:

1) a description of said action;

2) a description of said data object;

3) a first limit that defined the maximum amount of data that is

allowed to be sent to said client in answering said initial request

message;

4) a second limit that defined a maximum datagram size that can be

formed in said answering said initial request message; and

b) wherein:

1) each reply message within said burst of reply messages carries a

different piece of said asked for first portion, wherein, each of said

different pieces is not larger than said second limit

and wherein

2) the aggregate of said different pieces is an amount of data that is

not larger than said first limit.

40. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 39

wherein said method further comprises receiving a second request message

that was sent by said client over said network, wherein said second request

message asked for a second portion of said response.

41. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 40

wherein said method further comprises sending a second burst of reply

messages from said server to said client in order to answer said second request

message.

42. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 39 wherein said method further comprises maintaining a third limit, said third limit defining the maximum amount of data that is allowed to be sent to said client in answering said initial request message.

43. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 42 wherein said aggregate of said different pieces is an amount of data that is not larger than said third limit if said third limit is less than said first limit.

44. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 39 wherein at least one of said reply messages further comprises the size of said response.

45. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 39 wherein at least one of said reply messages further comprises an object identifier that said client may use to refer to said data object for subsequent requests that invoke said data object.